

**Hollybrook Memorial,
Southampton, Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2701 PRIVATE

P. J. WALKER

34TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH JANUARY, 1917

Percy James WALKER

Percy James Walker was born at "Kaludah", Lochinvar, New South Wales on 25th June, 1892 to parents Major Edward (Ted) & Katherine Caroline Walker (nee Ekert).

Percy James Walker attended School at Greta, NSW.

Percy James Walker was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from Harper's Hill, Lochinvar, NSW when he enlisted at Newcastle, NSW on 10th July, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2701 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Katherine Walker, Harper's Hill, Lochinvar, NSW.

Private Percy James Walker was posted to "D" Company, Newcastle Depot Battalion on 10th July, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 34th Battalion on 25th August, 1916. Private Walker was transferred to "Invalids Section, Victoria Barracks" on 17th October, 1916 & was returned to duty on 7th November, 1916. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 34th Battalion on 8th November, 1916.

34th Battalion

The 34th Battalion was formed in January 1916 at a camp established at the Maitland showground in New South Wales. It was planned that the bulk of the battalion's recruits would be drawn from the Maitland area and thus it was dubbed "Maitland's Own". The first recruits for the 34th, however, hailed from the far north-west of the state and arrived at Maitland after joining a recruiting march that began at Walgett. These men were known as the "Wallabies".

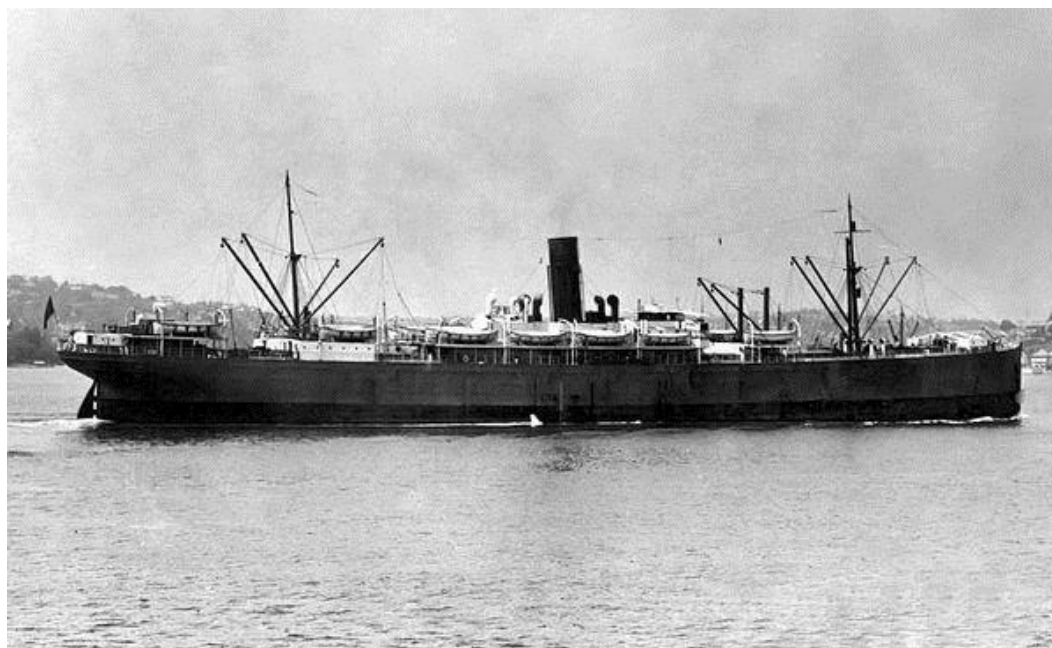
The 34th became part of the 9th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Percy James Walker embarked from Sydney, NSW on SS *Napier* on 17th November, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 34th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements.

Private Percy James Walker was admitted to Troopship *Port Napier's* Hospital on 31st December, 1916 with Lobar Pneumonia (double), Emphysema & O_____.

Private Percy James Walker died on 18th January, 1917 at Sea on board H.M.A.T. *Port Napier* (as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service & Field Service Form) from Myocarditis.



SS Port Napier

Private Percy James Walker was buried at Sea on 18th January, 1917 from H.M.A.T. *Port Napier*. He is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Logan & Carlton Solicitors, West Maitland, wrote to Base Records on 19th March, 1917 regarding Percy James Walker – Deceased - stating “*we are acting for Mary Jane Walker, sister of the above named Deceased on an application for Probate of his Will and shall be obliged if you will let us have the usual Military Certificate of Death to lodge in connection therewith.*”

Base Records replied on 24th March, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late Private P. J. Walker.

The Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co. Ltd wrote to Base Records on 17th April, 1917 requesting a death certificate & identification particulars for Percy James Walker, No. 2701, 34th Battalion “*whose life was insured with this Company.*”

Base Records replied on 24th April, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late Private P. J. Walker along with identification particulars.

Base Records contacted Mrs K. Walker, Harpers Hill, Lochinvar, NSW, mother of the late Private P. J. Walker, on 13th May, 1921 stating she was noted she was registered on the records of the late Private P. J. Walker as the next-of-kin but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still alive due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mrs K. Walker replied to Base Records on 23rd May, 1921 stating that his father was alive & his address was – Major Edward Walker, Harpers Hill, Greta, NSW.

Private Percy James Walker was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Walker's father – Major E. Walker, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Percy James Walker – service number 2701, of 34th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private P. J. Walker is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 124.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

P. J. Walker is remembered in the Lochinvar War Memorial, located at Lochinvar School of Arts, New England Highway, Lochinvar, NSW.



Lochinvar War Memorial

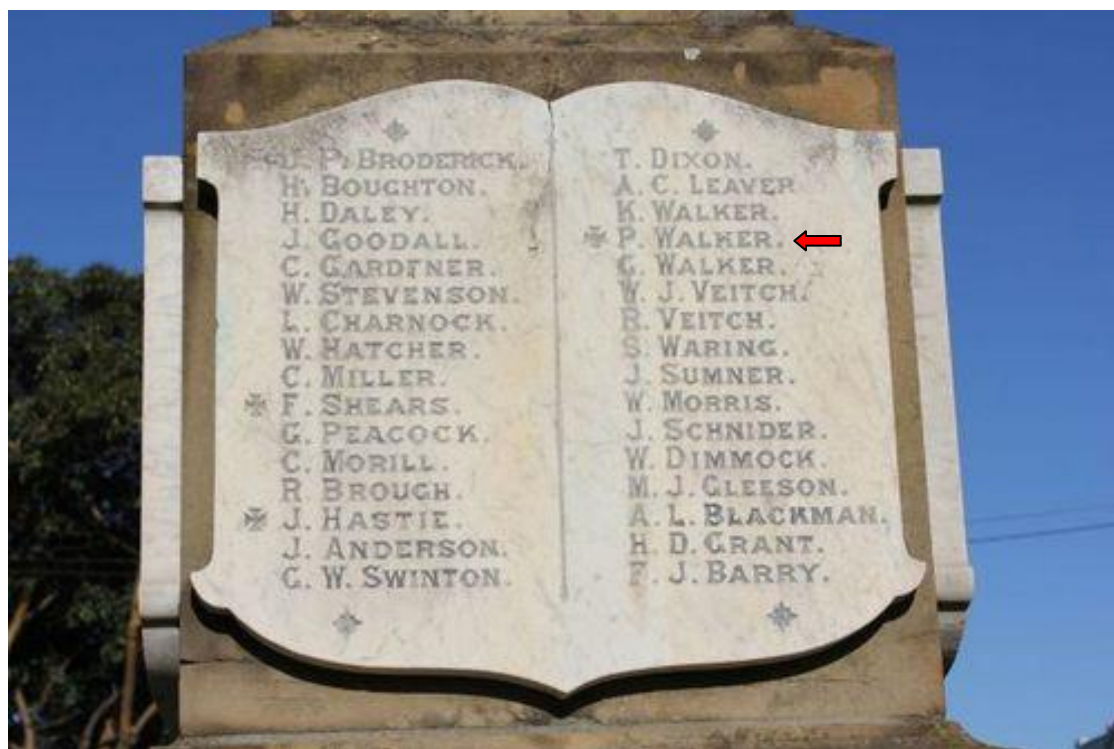
(Photos from Facebook page: Australian War Memorials Queensland: New South Wales: Victoria)



P. Walker is remembered on the Greta War Memorial, located on New England Highway & Water Street, Greta, NSW.



Greta War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



(47 pages of Private Percy James Walker's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Private Percy James Walker

Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES

272nd LIST ISSUED

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte P. J. WALKER, Lochinvar

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 15 February, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WALKER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Percy James Walker, who died at sea on January 18, 1917; aged 24 years and 6 months

He nobly answered duty's call,
He gave his life for us and all;
His unknown grave is the bitterest blow,
That none but our aching hearts can know.

Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters, Harper's Hill, Greta.

(*The Maitland Daily Mercury*, NSW – 24 February, 1917) & (*The Maitland Weekly Mercury*, NSW – 3 March, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WALKER. — In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Percy James Walker, who died at sea, January 18th. 1917, aged 24 years and six months.

Though nothing can the loss replace,
 A dear one taken from our side;
Yet In our sorrow we rejoice.
 To think 'twas nobly that he died;
Life's highest mission he fulfilled,
 And bravely answered duty's call.
To fight for liberty and right,
 And battle for oppression's fall.
One year has gone, how long it seems,
 In all our thoughts his face still beams,
In memory's page, we never blot,
 Three little words— forget him not;

Inserted by his loving mother and father, sister, and brothers, Harpers Hill, Greta. 2274

WALKER.— A tribute of love to the memory of my dear brother, Percy James Walker, who died at sea, January 18, 1917, aged 24 years and six months.

Honour's crown to thine, dear brother,
 You have joined the glorious band,
Who gave, their lives for freedom,
 And the dear homeland.
In the dawn of a splendid manhood,

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When the tide of your life ran high.
With courage of hope in your bearing
You waved me a last good-bye.
I little though when I said good-bye,
It would be the last parting between you,
and I.
I loved you in life, you are dear to me still,
But in grief we must bend to God's Holy
Will.

Inserted by his loving brother, George (on active service) 2274

WALKER, — In loving memory of our dear brother and brother-in-law, Percy James, who died at sea, January 18th, 1917.

You are always in our, thoughts, dear, Percy,
It's nice to speak your name.
In death we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Ella and Edwin Brown, Newcastle.

WALKER — In loving memory of our dear brother, Percy James Walker, who died at sea, January 18th, 1917.

His cheery ways, his smiling face,
Are pleasant to recall;
He had a kindly, word for each,
And died beloved by all.
In a hero's grave he is lying,
The dear one we loved, so well,
Little we thought when we parted'
It was our last farewell.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mabel and Percy Hannan, Heddon-Greta

WALKER . — In sad but, loving memory of my dear brother, Percy James Walker, who died at sea, January 18th, 1917.

We often sit and think of you,
And think of how you died.
But, oh! it was so hard to think,
We could not say good-bye.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Florrie and Arch Wotton. 2272

WALKER, — In sad but loving memory of Private, Percy J. Walker, who died at sea on January 18, 1917.

He never shunned his country's call,
But gladly gave his life, his all;
He died the helpless to defend,
An Australian soldier's noble end

Inserted by his loving uncle and aunt, George and Edie Eckert, Narrabri. . 2270

WALKER, — In sad but loving memory of my dear friend, Pte. Percy- James, Walker, who died at sea on January 18, 1917, aged 24 years and 6 months.

He nobly answered duty's call,

Inserted by his loving friend, B. Marriott, West Maitland.

(*The Maitland Daily Mercury*, NSW – 18 January, 1918) & (*The Maitland Weekly Mercury*, NSW – 19 January, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WALKER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Percy James Walker, who died at sea, January 18th, 1917, aged 24 years and six months.

To-day, as we look at his photo,
A soldier so young and so true,
Do you know that our hearts are aching
And longing, dear Percy, for you?
Two years have gone; how long it seems,
In all our thoughts his face still beams.
In memory's page we'll never blot
Three little words – forget him not.

Inserted by his loving mother and father, sisters and brothers.

(The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 18 January, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

WALKER – In loving memory of Private P. J. Walker, who died at sea, January 18, 1917.

He has sailed his last commission,
 On a beautiful boat called Rest;
He was one of Australia's heroes,
 One of God's bravest and best.
No mother's care did him attend,
 Nor o'er him did a father bend;
No sister by to shed a tear,
 No brother by his words to hear.

Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 17 January, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WALKER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Percy James Walker, who died at sea, January 18, 1917, aged 24 years and six months.

We never knew what pain he bore,
 We never saw him die;
We only knew he passed away,
 And never said good-bye.

Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters, Harper's Hill, Greta.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 18 January, 1921)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WALKER – In loving memory of Private P. J. Walker, who died at sea, January 18, 1917.

Dearer to memory than words can tell,
Are the thought of the one we loves so well;
No one knows the depth of our regret,
But we remember when others forget.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 21 January, 1922)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WALKER – In loving memory of Private P. J. Walker, who died at sea, January 18, 1917.

He noble answered duty's call,
He gave his life for us and all,

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 18 January, 1923)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WALKER – In loving memory of Private P. J. Walker, who died at sea, January 18, 1917.

His actions speak, though his voice is still,
Forget him? No! We never will.
His bright young life, his loyal heart,
A nation's defender, he played his part.

Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 18 January, 1924)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WALKER – In loving memory of Percy James Walker, who died at sea, January 18, 1917.

The years may roll, the time will fly,
Every leaf will fade and die,
Every rising sun will set,
But you, dear Percy, we'll never forget;
We think we see his dear face,
Although eight years have passed –
And in our memory still he lives,
And will until the last.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brother.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 17 January, 1925) & (The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 24 January, 1925)

IN MEMORIAM

WALKER - In loving memory of Percy James Walker, who died at sea, January 18, 1917.

We cannot forget you, we loved you too dearly,
For your memory to fade like a dream,
Our lips may not speak, though the heart mourn sincerely,
And our eyes often rest, where your picture is seen.

Inserted by his loving parents, sisters, and brothers.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 18 January, 1926) & (The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 23 January, 1926)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WALKER - In loving memory of Percy James Walker, died at sea, January 18, 1917.

Sweet is the word remembrance,
As this small verse will show;
He will never be forgotten,
Though the years may come and go.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters, and brothers.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 18 January, 1927) & (The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 22 January, 1927)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WALKER - In loving memory of Percy James Walker, who died at sea, Jan. 18, 1917; also, George Edward Walker, who died January 22, 1917.

Our thoughts return to scenes long past,
Years roll on, but memory lasts;
Their memory still is sweet and dear,
And treasured with a love sincere;
For all of us they did their best,
May God grant them eternal rest.

Inserted by their loving mother and father, sisters and brothers.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 18 January, 1929) & (The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 19 January, 1929)

Percy James Walker is named on a headstone along with his brother – George Edward Walker & their parents in Lochinvar Anglican Cemetery, NSW.



Lochinvar Anglican Cemetery, NSW (Photos from Find a Grave – Commodore75)





Pte GEORGE EDWARD WALKER

Late A.I.F.

Died 22nd Jan 1927

Aged 36 Years

Pte PERCY JAMES WALKER

Late A.I.F.

Died at Sea

18th Jan 1917

Aged 21 Years

MAJOR EDWARD WALKER

Died 16th July 1937

Aged 78 Years

Catherine Walker

Died 19th Oct. 1938

Aged 78 Years

At Rest

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England

The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave but the sea are commemorated on memorials elsewhere). The memorial also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial. Almost one third of the names on the memorial are those of officers and men of the South African Native Labour Corps, who died when the troop transport Mendi sank in the Channel following a collision on 21 February 1917. Other vessels sunk with significant loss of life were: HS Anglia, a hospital ship sunk by mine off Dover on 17 November 1915. SS Citta Di Palermo, an Italian transport carrying Commonwealth troops, sunk by mine off Brindisi on 8 January 1916. In rescuing survivors, two Royal Naval Otranto drifters were themselves mined and blown up. HMTs Donegal and Warilda, ambulance transports torpedoed and sunk between Le Havre and Southampton on 17 April 1917 and 3 August 1918. HS Glenart Castle, a hospital ship torpedoed and sunk off Lundy on 26 February 1918. SS Galway Castle, torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on 12 September 1918. RMS Leinster, the Irish mail boat, torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Sea on 10 October 1918. Among those commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial is Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, who died when the battle cruiser HMS Hampshire was mined and sunk off Scapa Flow on 5 June 1916.

The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

(Information & photos from CWGC)

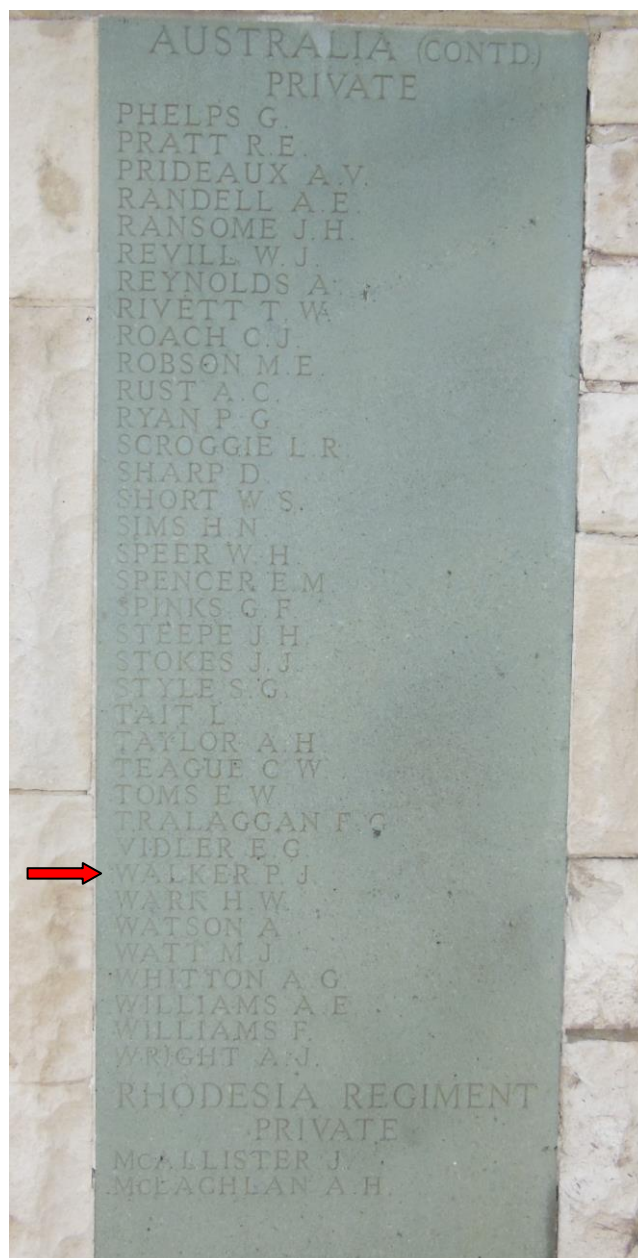


CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial

(Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Private P. J. Walker's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

